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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Austria ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~ REPORT

TOPIC Military Activity at Apetlon

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 25 April 1955

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. During the afternoon on 19 March 1955, and throughout the day on 20, 22 and 26 March, noises of medium AA guns which fired at sleeve-targets towed by a piston-engine aircraft were heard at the Apetlon AA Range. On the afternoon of 21 March, and throughout the day on 21 March, firing by medium AA guns and an undetermined weapon with reports similar to those of mortars was heard. Other unusual reports indicated that heavy AA guns probably also participated. During the night of 24 March, medium AA guns fired at sleeve-targets illuminated by ground searchlights and towed by a piston-engine aircraft which repeatedly fired red very lights.

2. On 17 March, a column of about 15 motor vehicles, including some trucks towing medium AA guns, passed through Apetlon and went toward the AAA camp. Trucks driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen. 2

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3. On 19 March, four motor vehicle columns came from the direction of Illmitz or Wallern, passed through Apetlon and went toward the AAA camp. The first column included about 20 vehicles which towed medium and heavy AAA guns and an undetermined weapon which had a carriage similar to that of a 37-mm AA gun and a tube like that of a mortar.

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The other column included about 50 vehicles some towing medium and heavy AA guns and the above mentioned undetermined weapon.

The third column of an undetermined number of vehicles included trucks

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towing medium AA guns. The fourth column included about 20 vehicles towing medium and heavy AA guns and the undetermined weapon.

All drivers observed with the columns wore red-bordered black epaulets. 3

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4. On 23 March, a column of vehicles, including trucks driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and towing AA guns passed through Apetlon and went toward the AAA camp. 4

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5. Between 0800 and 1200 on 27 March, numerous columns came from the direction of Illmits or Wallern at short intervals only, passed through Apetlon and went toward the AAA camp. Vehicles towing medium and heavy AA guns and the undetermined weapon mentioned in paragraph 3 were observed.

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The trucks were driven by soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. 5

6. The following is a list of vehicular traffic observed at Apetlon between 17 and 28 March. All drivers seen wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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On 17 and 18 March. Truck [redacted] towing a field kitchen.

On 19 March. Trucks [redacted]

On 20 March. Trucks [redacted]

On 21 March. Trucks [redacted]

On 22 March. Jeep [redacted]

23 March. Trucks [redacted]

26 March. Truck [redacted]

27 March. Trucks [redacted]

28 March. Jeep [redacted] and trucks [redacted]

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7. On 22 March. a lieutenant colonel with red-bordered black epaulets who visited an inn at Apetlon tried to exchange Hungarian banknotes for Austrian currency. Between 20 and 27 March. Soviet soldiers tried almost daily to pay with Hungarian currency. 7

8. On 28 March. it was officially made known that the area east of Neusiedel Lake was blocked for any kind of civilian traffic. Compensations for farmers not allowed to till their ground within this area were to be provided for.

1. [redacted] Comment. The report indicates that Soviet AAA units continued firing practice at the Apetlon troop training grounds during the last 10 days of March 1955.

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the column probably consisted of vehicles of air force AAA units.

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3. [redacted] Comment. Most of the vehicle [redacted] observed on 19 March 1955 belong to units of the 23d AAA Div from Korneuburg and Stockerau. Two vehicles possibly belong to Soviet units from Hungary, and one vehicle to an air force AAA unit from Wiener Neustadt. The observation of heavy AA guns at Apetlon was reported in connection with a column of the 23d AAA Div from Korneuburg in August 1954, and with another unit in March 1955. [redacted] Confirmatory information on heavy AA guns (100 mm?) has not been obtained. A weapon with a carriage of 2 37-mm AA gun and a tube similar to that of a mortar is reported for the first time.

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4. Comment. [redacted] the column
probably belonged to an air force AAA unit from Deutsch Wagram. 25X1
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5. Comment. Two of the vehicle [redacted] probably belong to Soviet 25X1
AAA units from Hungary, and one [redacted] unit from St. Poelten.
6. Comment. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the following AAA units were probably 25X1
stationed at the Apetlon AAA Range for firing practice: air force
AAA units, including units from Kagra; AAA units from Hungary; and
AAA units of the 23d AAA Div from Korneuburg - Stockerau.
7. Comment. The report confirms the observation that Soviet AAA 25X1
units from Hungary were stationed at Apetlon for firing practice
between 20 and 27 March 1955. [redacted] 25X1

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